THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY) : (a) Government is not aware of any study on noise pollution conducted by the Indian Medical Association. However, studies carried out by the National Institute of Occupational Health, Ahmedabad have indicated that high levels of noise pollution may cause temporary or permanent hearing impairment and psychobehavioural problems.

(b) and (c) Steps taken by the Government to prevent noise pollution and increase public awareness are enumerated in the Statement enclosed.

Statement

STEPS TAKEN BY THE GOVERNMENT

1. Noise has been notified as a pollutant under Air (Prevention & Control of Pollution) Act, 1991. Ambient standards in respect of sound for the different categories of areas (residential, commercial, industrial and silence zones) have been notified under the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986.

2. Noise limits have been prescribed for automobiles; domestic appliances and construction equipments at the manufacturing stage.

3. A code of prectise for controlling noise at source, other than industries and automobiles, has been evolved by the Central Pollution Control Board. These include Public Address System, Aircraft Operations, Railway Operations, construction activities and bursting of creackers. State Government have been asked to employ these code of practices under the relevant local rules.

Use of Prohibited Colours in Foodstuff

2266. PROF. AJIT KUMAR MEHTA :
SHRI DINESH CHANDRA YADAV :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware of the widely use of prohibited flavoured colours in foodstuff and soft drinks which causes serious damage to the human health;

(b) whether any study has been conducted by the Government in this regard;

(c) if so, the outcome of the study;

(d) whether the Industrial Toxicological Research Centre had also submitted a report to the Government about the harmful affects of the use of prohibited colours; and

(e) if so, the action taken by the Government to check the use of prohibited colours in foodstuff and soft drinks and the reasons attributed for not achieving the desired results?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY) : (a) to (e) Information is being collected and will be laid on the table of the Lok Sabha.

Diversion of Fund

2267. SHRI UTTAMSINGH PAWAR : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether a substantial part of money meant for development of the Jammu and Kashmir State finds its way into the hands of the insurgents;

(b) if so, the details thereof and Government's reaction thereto;

(c) the quantum of amount provided to Jammu and Kashmir Government for development work during the last three years;

(d) whether any assessment has been made about the actual development made:

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI S.R. BALASUBRAMONIYAN) : (a) and (b) No Sir. Whenever specific complaints of misuse of funds are received, appropriate enquiries are conducted including enquiries by the Vigilance Department. The State Government has further strengthened and intensified the activities of the Vigilance Department. The State Government has constituted District level Inspection Committees under the Chairmanship of the Deputy Commissioners to inspect and verify works and programmes on the ground. Corrective measures are taken by the State Government whenever necessary.

(c) A statement is annexed.

(d) to (f) Several teams of senior officers from the Central Government have also visited the State and physically inspected development works and found execution of development schemes on the whole satisfactory.